

Mrs. Ruth Abbott
7416 Holly Ave.,
Takoma Park, Md. 20012

1/7/91

Dear Ruth,

If all the people who owe Sammie very much were to line up beginning at your front door the line would extend into Virginia. It includes everyone who lives in the area and I'd be close to the head of the line.

While the Post's obit and yesterday's story are not unfriendly they fail to make it clear that without Sammie there would not be the Metro that so many depend on today. Even out here, where quite a few drive to the Shady Grove station, park their cars and use the Metro into Washington.

Sammie was the personification of democracy, genuine democracy, in action. In Andy Jackson's words, he was the one determined man who became a majority. I was fascinated by what he did, how he did it, and the courage and imagination it required! It was truly magnificent.

He was one of those rare people who could make the system work while it was kicking and screaming in opposition.

Now I wish that, remembering Abu ben Adhem's words, his tribe would increase!

I am sorry that we've not been able to see each other for so long. It has been unsafe for me to drive to Washington since 1977 and I haven't. I'd have loved to have been at the memorial service just to see the outpouring of appreciation for his many accomplishments from the many who learned so much for him, so many of whom would not have learned what they learned, became what they became, without him.

I know of no widow who has as much right to be proud in her grief.

If you have any copies of the commemorating booklet I'd appreciate one. If you have and can spare more I'd appreciate about a half dozen. As soon as I saw his obit I wrote a few of those of more serious bent in their interest in the JFK assassination to let them know of our indebtedness to Sammie who had so much to do with opening the subject up and with the appearance of my first book, which was the first on the Warren Commission.

He also arranged for the first serious media attention in New York. Typically, he knew he'd have to attract attention to his letter so he addressed it in German script!

Sammie understood the world in which we live and how to cope with it. This is but one of the many illustrations that come to mind. I should have said how to make it work as it should, unwilling as it was and is.

In your sorrow you and the children have what was so very few can have, the recollections that he more than met the promises frost says we were born to keep.

What I mean above is that if you have any extra copies of the booklet I'd like to send them to those who did not know Sammie to whom I wrote about his help.

Sammie did, in his words quoted in the story, live to fight injustice. So few were as able to do it as much and as effectively as he did. We all owe him so very much for his willingness and for his successes in fighting injustice. He was a truly wonderful man we loved and respected so much.

Our best to you and the children, to whom I hope you will remember us,

Sincerely,



Harold Weisberg